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Hanafi Calls for Improved Care, Protection of Children at Kabul Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, emphasized the importance of protecting the rights of children held at the Kabul Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, calling for improved services, better living conditions, and greater attention to their basic needs.

During the visit, Hanafi-led delegation reviewed administrative affairs and the services provided to children in the facility, Arg said in a statement on Saturday.

Discussions focused on identifying existing shortcomings, with officials instructed to take practical measures to address them.

The delegation also met with children accommodated at the center, listened to their concerns and requests, and assured them that the issues raised would be followed up and addressed through the relevant authorities.

As part of the visit, the delegation inspected classrooms, vocational training facilities, healthcare services, hygiene standards, food preparation and distribution, accommodation, and the observance of the children's legal and religious rights.

Hanafi stressed that children under the center's care should be treated with dignity and compassion, emphasizing the need to strengthen healthcare, improve sanitation, enhance services, and ensure their fundamental rights and welfare are fully protected.

He also issued the necessary directives to relevant officials to improve conditions and address identified needs.

The Kabul Times

Kabul, Beijing Sign MoU to Expand Trade Cooperation

KABUL: The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) said in a statement the other day that it has signed a cooperation agreement with the Qingdao International Exhibition Center of China aimed at strengthening bilateral trade relations through joint exhibitions and business events.

The memorandum of understanding seeks to promote commercial cooperation by facilitating the organization of joint trade fairs and expanding business exchanges between Afghan and Chinese enterprises, the statement said.

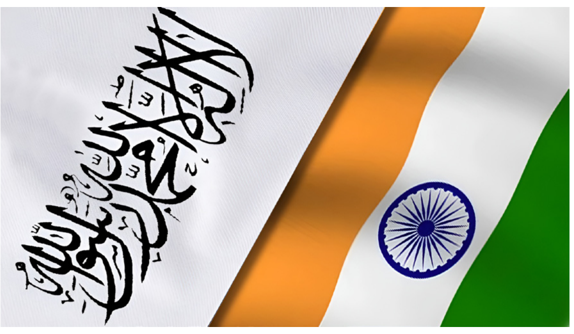
The MoU also supports China's participation in the Fifth Imam Abu Hanifa National and International Exhibition, where Chinese manufacturers and companies are expected to showcase industrial machinery, technology and other products while exploring investment and business opportunities in Afghanistan.

The statement added that the partnership reflects ongoing efforts to deepen economic ties, attract foreign investment and create broader opportunities for trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries. **The Kabul Times**

Suhail Shaheen, UN Official Discuss Support for Returning Afghans

DOHA: Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, the Ambassador of the Islamic Emirate to Qatar, in a meeting with Dr. Barham Salih, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, discussed assistance for Afghan migrants returning from Iran and Pakistan. According to a statement from the Afghan Embassy in Qatar, the meeting focused on providing shelter, healthcare services, education and employment opportunities for returnees as Afghanistan continues to receive large numbers of returning migrants. The two sides also reviewed complaints regarding the alleged unlawful confiscation of property and assets belonging to some returning Afghan migrants, highlighting the need to address their concerns. During the meeting, the UN official acknowledged the challenges facing Afghan returnees and assured the Afghan delegation that efforts would continue to help resolve these issues and improve support for affected families. **The Kabul Times**

Omari Highlights Agricultural Cooperation With India, Minister



KABUL: The country's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlavi Ataullah Omari, has stressed that expanding agricultural cooperation between Afghanistan and India is essential for strengthening the agricultural sector and improving livelihoods in both countries.

Speaking at the India–Afghanistan Trade Opportunities Conference in New Delhi, Omari said agriculture and livestock remain the backbone of Afghanistan's economy, noting that nearly 80 percent of the country's population depends on the two sectors for their livelihoods, according to a statement from the ministry on Saturday.

He added that closer cooperation with India could create significant opportunities for development, investment and technology transfer.

Omari highlighted the potential for both countries to deepen collaboration in agriculture and livestock, describing the partnership as beneficial for sustainable economic growth and rural development.

The minister also welcomed the reception extended to him by Indian officials during his visit, calling it a positive step toward strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between Kabul and New Delhi.

He expressed hope that continued engagement would pave the way for broader economic ties and practical initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, food security and trade between the two countries.

During his visit, Omari also encouraged Indian businesses to invest in agriculture, horticulture, livestock development, agricultural processing industries, water resource management, irrigation projects and agricultural value chains in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Khalid Hanafi Calls for Afghan Unity, Greater Public Service

KABUL: Shaikh Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, the country's Minister for the Promotion of Virtue, Prevention of Vice and Hearing of Complaints, has emphasized the importance of national unity, urging religious scholars, tribal elders and local officials to work together in serving society.

Speaking during a meeting with religious scholars, tribal leaders and local authorities from southeastern provinces in Paktia, Hanafi said those seeking to undermine Afghanistan have historically attempted to achieve their objectives by influencing influential figures, tribal elders and religious scholars, RTA Dari reported on Saturday.

He stressed that maintaining unity and solidarity among Afghans is essential for preserving social cohesion and addressing national challenges.

The minister also said officials of the Islamic Emirate should make effective use of their authority, professional capacity, knowledge and social standing to promote reform and provide better services to the public.

He described cooperation among community leaders and government officials as an important factor in strengthening public trust and supporting social stability.

The Kabul Times

Cultural Gatherings Strengthen National Unity, Preserve Afghan Values, Azizi Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Culture and Arts, said that cultural gatherings and literary festivals play a vital role in strengthening national unity, promoting social cohesion, and preserving Afghanistan's cultural and Islamic values.

Azizi made the remarks during the 24th Traditional Gul-e-Seeb Poetry Festival held in Maidan Wardak province, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The event was organized by the Department of Information and Culture of Maidan Wardak in cooperation with the ministry's Directorate of Melody and Songs, the statement said.

The festival brought together thousands of participants, including Deputy Minister for Publications Affairs Muhajir Farahi, poets, writers, intellectuals, cultural figures and literature enthusiasts, the statement said.

Addressing the gathering, Atiqullah Azizi also highlighted the social and educational significance of literary events, saying meaningful poetry can contribute to intellectual growth while promoting Islamic and national values.

He noted that constructive literature has the potential to guide society toward positive thinking and moral development.

The deputy minister said such events continue to serve as important platforms for preserving Afghanistan's literary heritage and strengthening cultural unity across the country.

Meanwhile, Mawlavi Habibullah Mujahid, head of the provincial Department of Information and Culture, welcomed participants and expressed satisfaction over the large turnout, describing it as a reflection of the country's peaceful environment and the people's commitment to preserving their cultural heritage.

Mujahid also encouraged poets to dedicate their works to themes such as national development, the protection of Islamic values, education, unity, and raising public awareness rather than praising individuals. **The Kabul Times**

Saberi Calls for Improved Facilities at Tourist, Historical Sites

KABUL: Mawlavi Mohammad Saber Saberi, Director of the Information and Culture Department of Khost province, has emphasized the need to improve infrastructure and visitor services at the province's tourist and historical attractions to support tourism development and stimulate the local economy.

During a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Information and Culture's Directorate of Tourism Research and Development, Saberi highlighted Khost's rich natural landscapes and historical sites, saying the province has significant potential to attract both domestic and international tourists, according to a statement from the ministry on Saturday.

Saberi stressed that providing essential facilities, including information boards, rest areas and other visitor services, would enhance tourists' experiences while creating new economic opportunities for local communities.

The visiting delegation said the purpose of its trip was to assess and document Khost's tourism and historical sites, identify new locations with tourism potential and support their registration and preservation.

Officials added that the Ministry of Information and Culture remains committed to protecting and developing tourism attractions across Afghanistan and implementing practical measures to improve tourism infrastructure in accordance with the needs of each province.**The Kabul Times**

Health Ministry Signs MoU on Nutrition in Herat, Farah

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement on Saturday that it has signed a $439,416 MoU with a partner organization to strengthen healthcare services in the western provinces of Herat and Farah by expanding nutrition support for children and nursing mothers.

The project will be implemented over 18 months and aims to improve access to essential nutrition services for vulnerable communities in the two provinces, the statement said.

Under the project, nutrition services will be delivered through 117 health centers, benefiting 157,823 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition as well as breastfeeding mothers.

See P4

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Allegations and the Need for Diplomacy

The recent exchange of statements between Kabul and Islamabad has once again highlighted the fragile nature of relations between the two neighboring countries. Allegations from Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that militant groups enjoy safe havens in Afghanistan were swiftly rejected by Islamic Emirate spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, who described the claims as baseless and harmful to bilateral ties. This episode underscores the urgent need for both nations to move beyond accusations and embrace diplomacy as the only viable path toward stability.

Afghanistan's position has been consistent as it long said that it does not allow its soil to be used against any country. Mujahid's rejection of the allegations reflects Kabul's insistence that suspicions and propaganda only fuel mistrust. When accusations are repeated at the highest levels of government, they risk deepening tensions and undermining the fragile atmosphere of security between two neighbors who share history, culture, and geography. Such rhetoric may serve short-term political purposes, but it does little to foster long-term cooperation.

On the other side, Sharif's remarks point to Pakistan's deep concerns about cross-border militancy. He claimed that groups backed by India operate from Afghan territory to launch attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Whether these claims are accurate or not, the manner in which they are presented matters greatly. Public accusations, especially without evidence, erode trust and make constructive dialogue more difficult.

Analysts have rightly noted that if such allegations are genuine, they should be addressed through diplomatic channels and international mediation rather than through public blame. Pakistan's military responses often target civilian areas rather than alleged militant centers, raising questions about the credibility of the claims. This cycle of accusation and retaliation only perpetuates instability, leaving ordinary citizens to bear the consequences.

The broader lesson is clear as Afghanistan and Pakistan must recognize that their security is intertwined. Instability in one country inevitably spills across the border. Both sides have legitimate concerns, but those concerns can only be resolved through dialogue, transparency, and cooperation. The United Nations and other international actors can play a constructive role in facilitating discussions, but the primary responsibility lies with Kabul and Islamabad themselves.

Independence and sovereignty are principles both nations cherish. Preserving them requires rejecting propaganda and embracing diplomacy. The people of Afghanistan and Pakistan deserve peace, not perpetual suspicion. Leaders on both sides must acknowledge the shared challenges, and commit to building trust. Only then can the cycle of allegations be broken, paving the way for genuine cooperation and regional stability.

Pakistan Continued Negative Propaganda against Afghanistan

By: Sayed Sharif

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan are frequently exacerbated by accusations and negative propaganda campaigns mostly followed by Pakistani officials. Most recently, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that armed groups are using Afghanistan territory to plan and carry out attacks against Pakistan. It is not the first time and will never be the last time Pakistani officials blaming Afghanistan for their failure.

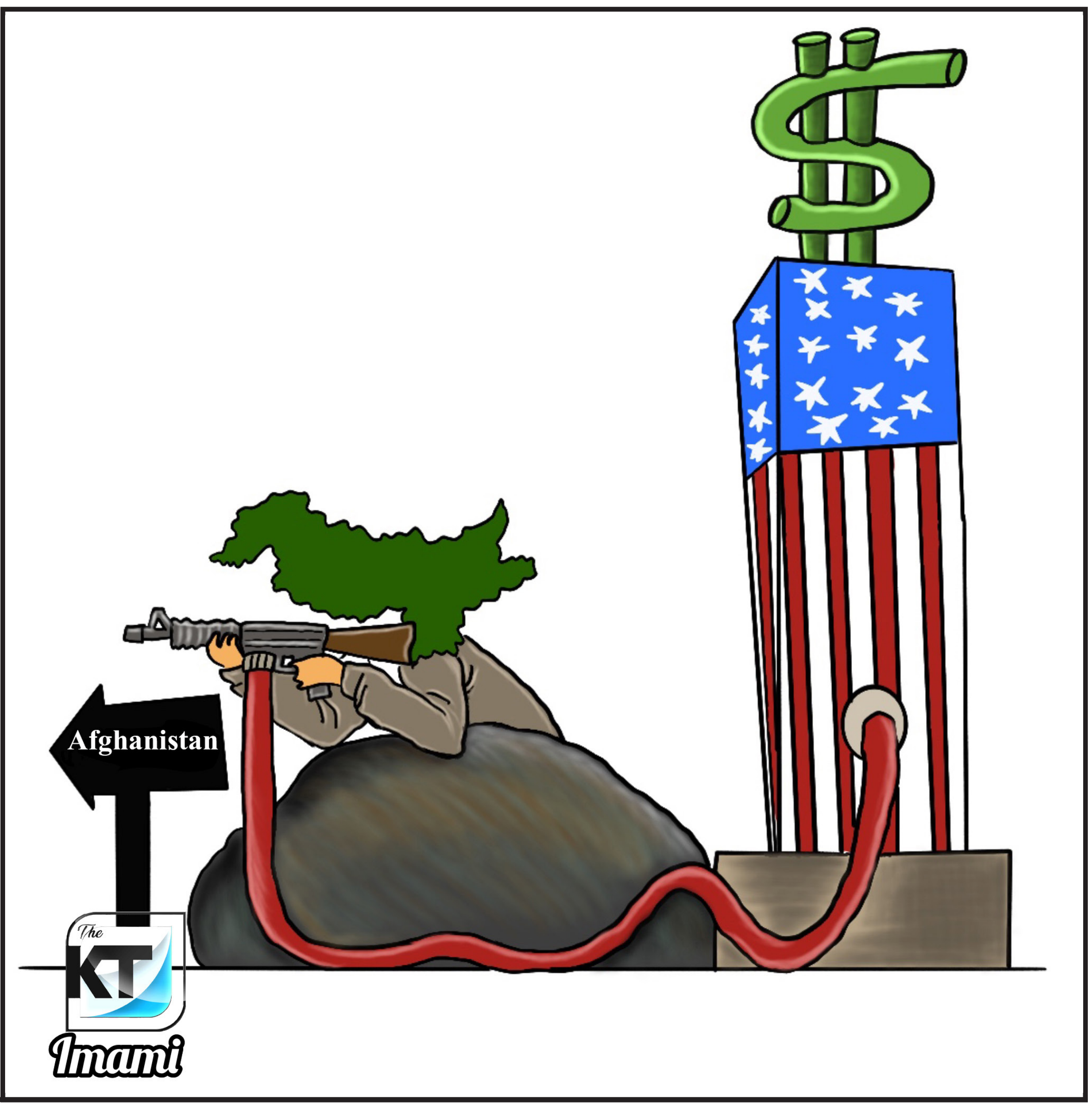
With the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August 2021, Pakistan has started accusing Afghanistan of harboring armed groups, while the Islamic Emirate has repeatedly assured the world and region that no armed groups will be allowed to use the soil against others. The Islamic Emirate has always rejected the Pakistani officials' allegations and accusations as false and repetitive.

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, has once again rejected Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claims that terrorist groups are using Afghan territory to plan and carry out attacks against Pakistan, calling the allegations "repetitive and false. Mujahid said the Islamic Emirate would not allow foreign groups to operate in Afghanistan or permit Afghan soil to be used against Pakistan or any other country.

"Such suspicions, such propaganda, and such contradictory views have always fueled tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan and undermined an atmosphere of security and trust," Mujahid said. His remarks come after Shehbaz Sharif and other high-ranking officials of the neighboring country again alleged that terrorist groups are using Afghan territory to plan and execute attacks against Pakistan.

While regional and international mediators have recently pushed both Afghanistan and Pakistan to soften public rhetoric in favor of quiet diplomacy, deep-seated mutual mistrust remains.

In recent weeks, insecurities have increased in parts of the neighboring Pakistan, which is a strategic failure for the country, the officials of which want to shift their internal problems, failures, and security crises into others and once again, by deceiving the world, direct a flood of western financial and military aid towards themselves. Almost all the world knows about the Pakistan's double game as it is using proxy groups as tool against others. For years, Pakistan has used proxy groups as its primary tool for advancing its geopolitical agenda and proxy wars in the region. The country has followed this strategy as a method to extract concessions and financial assistance from the international community, particularly the West. Today, everybody and all countries in the world and region know that are going behind the scenes. They know that Pakistan manages the bases, planning centers, and logistical hubs of proxy groups on their own soil to use against other countries. See P4



The Will of the People, the Hope of the Children

By: Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Education is the bedrock of development and a brighter future for any society. Yet, in many of Afghanistan's remote areas, thousands of children still face a severe lack of school buildings, proper learning environments, and basic educational resources. While families dream of a better future for their children through learning, this lack of resources stands as a massive barrier.

Decades of conflict have devastated Afghanistan's infrastructure, and education has taken a heavy hit. In many regions, the environment is simply unfit for proper learning. According to recent international estimates, between 3.5 and 4 million children—both boys and girls—are currently out of school across the country, primarily due to this lack of facilities.

Although international education donors spent millions of dollars over the past two decades to develop education in Afghanistan, the Islamic Emirate inherited very few functional school buildings and resources. Over the last nearly five years, the Islamic Emirate has managed to strengthen the educational process, building hundreds of schools and hiring thousands of new teachers across various regions, an effort that is still ongoing.

However, residents of the southern province of Zabel have chosen not to wait around for government aid. Instead, they have stepped up, pooling their own money and resources to build schools themselves. Over the past few years, locals across different districts of the province have funded and built hundreds of schools, and this community-driven movement shows no signs of slowing down.

Most recently, local officials in Zabul's Shah Joy district reported that residents have taken school construction into their own hands. According to the Shah Joy Department of Education, locals have contributed millions of Afghanis over the last two years to boost education and build school infrastructure, ensuring their children can learn in a proper environment.

Mawlavi Habib Rahman Shahid, the head of the district's education department, noted that the construction of nine schools has opened doors for thousands of students.

"The people of Shah Joy district are incredibly supportive. They have given us unforgettable cooperation," Shahid said. "Local individuals have built structures for nine schools, providing a proper learning environment for 15,000 students."

Locals shared that they pooled their personal savings to build a fully equipped school building worth 3 million Afghanis in their area. Two residents, Qari Abdul Wadood and Abdul Haq, expressed their ongoing commitment to funding local education.

"We collected money from our own pockets and built this school. We are ready to build more schools like this in the future," Abdul Wadood said.

"We gave our own money and built this school just so our children can get an education here," Abdul Haq added.

Students attending these community-funded schools say they are thrilled that their fellow villagers have provided them with an organized place to learn. Before this, they had to study out in the open under the sky, facing tough conditions.

Still, challenges remain. "We don't have enough books, we lack professional teachers, and we face other issues in the school," said Azizullah, a student. "We ask the government to resolve these problems for us."

Civil activist Mohammad Naim Hamdard believes that these community-built schools highlight a deep sense of social responsibility and the value people place on education. However, he emphasized that building schools, hiring professional teachers, providing textbooks, and raising the quality of education remain fundamental duties of the state. He urged the government to pay closer attention to regions where communities show such a high enthusiasm for learning.

Zabul's provincial officials have offered assurances that they will work harder at the state level to develop education. This community initiative in Zabul is not isolated; residents in several other Afghan provinces have also taken matters into their own hands, funding and building schools to secure a future for their youth.

Afghan Advertisements

AA 3512

Tender Notice

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum hereby invites all interested and qualified local and international companies to participate in the bidding process for large-scale mining contracts in the specified areas listed below.

All interested bidders may obtain the capability statement and prequalification questionnaire either by downloading them from the Ministry's official website (lsmmd.momp.gov.af) or by collecting them from the General Directorate of Cadaster and Contract Implementation

of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, located at Macrorayan Square, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Upon completion, the required forms must be submitted to the Bidding and Evaluation Department no later than 05 August 2026.

Description of the announce mining area

No	Projects Name	Districts	Provinces	Minerals	Area km²
1	Third Block of Markikhel	Shirzad	Nangarhar	Talc	9.501430

AA 3526

Tender Notice

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of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, located at Macrorayan Square, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Upon completion, the required forms must be submitted to the Bidding and Evaluation Department no later than 21 July 2026.

Description of the announce mining area

No	Projects Name	Districts	Provinces	Minerals	Area km²
1	Raw Materials for Cement Production in the Qizil Sai Area	Ali Abad	Kundoz	Cement	10.115644

The World's Unprecedented Heat: A Warning Humanity Can No Longer Ignore

By: Azar Rasikh

The world is witnessing one of the most alarming environmental crises in modern history. Record-breaking temperatures are no longer isolated weather events but a recurring global reality that is reshaping ecosystems, threatening economies, disrupting food production, and endangering the health and livelihoods of billions of people. What were once considered exceptional heatwaves have become increasingly frequent, prolonged, and intense, serving as a stark reminder that climate change is no longer a distant concern—it is unfolding before our eyes.

Despite remarkable advances in science, technology, and human development, our shared home—the Earth—is facing one of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century. The unprecedented rise in global temperatures is not merely the result of natural climate variability; it is the cumulative consequence of decades of unsustainable development, excessive reliance on fossil fuels, widespread deforestation, and the overexploitation of natural resources. The warning signs are now impossible to dismiss.

During recent months, vast regions of Europe, Asia, North America, and parts of Africa have experienced extraordinary heatwaves. In several countries, temperatures have exceeded 40 degrees Celsius, shattering long-standing historical records. Western Europe has recorded its hottest June since meteorological records began, while international climate agencies have cautioned that such extreme weather events are likely to become even more frequent and severe in the coming decades.

Climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that global warming is primarily driven by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The burning of coal, oil, and natural gas, combined with industrial emissions, rapid urbanization, deforestation, and ever-increasing energy consumption, has dramatically increased concentrations of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases. Acting like a thick blanket around the planet, these gases prevent heat from escaping into space, causing global temperatures to rise year after year.

Although the Earth's average temperature has increased by approximately 1.4 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era, this seemingly modest rise has profoundly disrupted the planet's climate system. It has intensified heatwaves, prolonged droughts, increased the frequency of devastating floods, accelerated the melting of glaciers and polar ice, and contributed to more destructive wildfires across multiple continents.

This year's extreme heat across Europe illustrates the far-reaching consequences of a warming planet. Schools have closed because classrooms became unsafe, electricity grids have come under unprecedented strain as air-conditioning demand surged, hospitals have treated growing numbers of heat-related illnesses, and wildfires have destroyed forests, homes, and infrastructure. Productivity has declined as outdoor work became increasingly dangerous, affecting agriculture, construction, and transportation. According to the World Meteorological Organization, extreme heat events are expected to become more frequent, longer-lasting, and increasingly severe unless global warming is significantly slowed.

The consequences extend well beyond human health. Agriculture, the foundation of global food security, is among the sectors most vulnerable to rising temperatures. Higher heat accelerates evaporation, dries out soils, reduces crop yields, encourages the spread of pests and plant diseases, and increases irrigation demands. As harvests decline, food prices rise, placing additional pressure on households and increasing the risk of hunger, particularly in developing countries that are already struggling with poverty and food insecurity.

Freshwater resources are under growing stress as well. Rapid glacier melt, declining rainfall in many regions, and increasing water consumption during prolonged heatwaves are reducing available freshwater supplies. Water scarcity is becoming a strategic concern for many nations, increasing the potential for competition over rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater resources. Effective water management is rapidly becoming as important as energy security and economic stability.

The world's oceans are also suffering. Rising sea temperatures have triggered widespread marine heatwaves, damaged coral reefs, altered fish migration patterns, and disrupted fragile marine ecosystems. These changes threaten fisheries that millions of people depend upon for food and employment while weakening biodiversity that supports the health of the planet.

For Afghanistan, climate change is far from an abstract global issue. It is a daily reality affecting agriculture, livelihoods, and national development. Over recent years, rising temperatures, declining rainfall, repeated droughts, shrinking groundwater reserves, and increasing dust storms have placed enormous pressure on rural communities. Since agriculture remains the backbone of the Afghan economy and provides livelihoods for a significant share of the population, continued climatic deterioration poses serious risks to food security, employment, and economic resilience.

Many Afghan farmers have already experienced declining harvests due to water shortages and changing weather patterns. Reduced agricultural production directly affects household incomes, increases food prices, and contributes to rural poverty. Water scarcity has also intensified competition over limited natural resources, placing additional strain on vulnerable communities. Without effective adaptation strategies, climate change could further undermine Afghanistan's long-term development prospects.

Another increasingly visible consequence of rising temperatures is the growing number of forest and grassland fires worldwide. Hotter and drier conditions create ideal environments for wildfires that destroy ecosystems, threaten human settlements, and release enormous quantities of carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere.

See P4

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SPORTS

Amo Cruise to Eight-Wicket Win Over Speen Ghar

Shpageeza 11 CRICKET LEAGUE

Amo kept their momentum rolling in the Shpageeza Cricket League on Saturday morning, locking in a dominant eight-wicket win over Speen Ghar in Khost province.
From the opening over, Amo dictated the pace. Their bowlers suffocated Speen Ghar's lineup, breaking up partnerships before they could even get started and setting up a highly manageable chase.
When they came out to bat, Amo made quick work of the target. The batsmen looked composed and clinical, knocking off the runs with plenty of wickets in hand and avoiding any unnecessary risks.
The clinical performance cements Amo as serious title contenders this season. They look balanced, sharp in all departments, and incredibly tough to beat.
Speen Ghar, on the other hand, just couldn't find answers for Amo's execution.
This year's Shpageeza Cricket League—Afghanistan's premier domestic T20 tournament—has brought plenty of energy to Khost, with Bost, Speen Ghar, Amo, Mis Ainak, and Band-e-Amir all fighting for the trophy. With another comprehensive win under their belt, Amo are looking like the team to beat as the tournament heats up.
The Kabul Times

National Sports Officials Oversee Key Developments During Multi-Event Visit to Helmand

Afghanistan's sports leadership marked a significant visit to Helmand province by inaugurating a new fitness facility, attending sporting events, and overseeing the conclusion of regional football competitions, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen sports infrastructure and athlete development across the country.
One of the key events of the visit was the opening of the Olympia Bodybuilding and Fitness Club in Lashkargah. Constructed at a cost of five million Afghanis through funding provided by national businessman Shah Wali Ishaqzai, the modern facility has the capacity to accommodate up to 400 athletes at a time.
The inauguration was attended by National Sports Administration Director General Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq, Technical and Professional Deputy Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, Olympic Affairs Director Dad Mohammad Payenda Akhtari, Afghanistan Football Federation President Mohammad Yousuf Kargar, business leaders, and athletes.
Speaking at the ceremony, Wasiq praised Helmand's business community for investing in sports alongside other sectors, describing such facilities as essential for nurturing future athletes. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to supporting sports development nationwide.
The delegation also visited Helmand's taekwondo selection tournament, where 80 athletes representing five clubs competed for places on the provincial team. The two-day event will select ten athletes to represent Helmand in future competitions.
During their visit, the officials attended matches in the regional football championship and later presided over the tournament's closing ceremony. Khost Ariana claimed the title after defeating Kunduz Piroozi 5-3 in the final and finished with 12 points, while Herat Omar Zwak secured second place. Both teams earned qualification for the sixth season of the Afghanistan Champions League, concluding a successful 10-day tournament in Helmand.
The Kabul Times

Merino's Late Heroics Send Spain Past Belgium & Into World Cup Semi-finals

Spain booked their place in the FIFA World Cup semi-finals after Mikel Merino came off the bench to score a dramatic late winner in a thrilling 2-1 victory over Belgium, setting up a mouthwatering clash with France.
The Spaniards made a bright start and were rewarded in the 30th minute when Pau Ruiz calmly found the back of the net to put his side in front. Belgium, however, refused to back down and responded just 11 minutes later as Charles De Ketelaere rose highest to head home the equaliser, ensuring the teams went into the break level.
With both sides creating chances after halftime, the match looked destined for extra time.
But Spain found one final moment of inspiration in the closing minutes. Pau Cubarsí's powerful effort slipped through the hands of substitute goalkeeper Senne Lammens, who had replaced the injured Thibaut Courtois earlier in the match. Merino reacted quickest to the loose ball, tapping home in the 88th minute to spark jubilant celebrations among the Spanish players and fans.
It was the second straight knockout match in which Merino emerged as Spain's unlikely hero, having also scored the decisive goal as a substitute against Portugal in the Round of 16.
The victory keeps alive Spain's dream of lifting the World Cup for the first time since their historic triumph in 2010. They will now face France in Dallas on Tuesday, with a place in the final at stake.
The Kabul Times

Fourteen Killed, 24 Injured in Helmand, Nangarhar Road Accidents

KABUL: At least 14 people have been killed and 24 others injured in two separate traffic accidents in Helmand and Nangarhar provinces, the RTA reported on Saturday.
Five people lost their lives, and 16 others sustained injuries after a 580 passenger vehicle collided with a cargo truck in the Shorab area of Washir district along the Herat-Kandahar Highway, RTA said.
Security forces immediately transferred the injured to the Shorab Field Hospital under the 215 Azm Corps for medical treatment. Preliminary investigations indicate that driver negligence was the primary cause of the collision, the TV added.
In a separate incident in Nangarhar province, a Datsun pickup truck overturned in Pachir Aw Agam district, killing nine people, including women and children, and injuring eight others.
Provincial officials said the injured were taken to the Rodat district hospital, while investigations remain underway to determine the exact cause of the accident.
Authorities have repeatedly urged motorists to observe traffic regulations and exercise greater caution to help reduce road accidents and improve public safety.
The Kabul Times

Afghanistan's Population Reaches 37.2 Million, NSIA Says

KABUL: Marking World Population Day, the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said in a statement on Saturday that Afghanistan's population has reached an estimated 37.2 million people.
NSIA spokesman Mohammad Halim Rafi said the estimate is based on the country's projected population for the 1405 solar year.
According to the figures, women account for 49 percent of the population, while men make up the remaining 51 percent.
Rafi added that Kabul and Herat remain the country's two most populous provinces, reflecting continued population concentration in major urban centers.
The updated estimates are expected to support national planning and policymaking in areas such as healthcare, education, infrastructure and public services.
The Kabul Times

From P1

Health Ministry Signs MoU ...

The project forms part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare delivery, improve child and maternal nutrition, and reduce the burden of malnutrition through expanded access to quality health services across the country, the statement added.
The Kabul Times

From P2

Pakistan Continued Negative...

This double game played by Pakistan has never been hidden from any country. Because of their own interests, Western countries never officially identified Pakistan as the principal of sponsor of proxy groups. Now, they blame others and accused others for harboring proxy groups, while the country used to do so in the past.
The Pakistani officials and establishment have already started their negative propaganda against Afghanistan and through their continued negative propaganda, they seek to put Afghanistan under severe international pressure so that the Afghan government is forced to accept Islamabad's illegitimate demands and the border lines dictated by it.
They should know that Afghanistan will never come under any pressure of Pakistan, calling on its authorities to go for diplomatic channels to resolve the ongoing tensions between the two countries.

From P3

The World's Unprecedented Heat: A Warning...

This creates a dangerous feedback loop: more fires produce more emissions, which in turn accelerate global warming and increase the likelihood of future fires.
Addressing this crisis requires far more than isolated national policies. Climate change is a global challenge that demands unprecedented international cooperation. Governments must honor and strengthen their commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, accelerate investment in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, protect forests, promote sustainable water management, and build resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding more extreme weather conditions. Scientific innovation, international financing, and technology transfer will all play vital roles in helping vulnerable countries adapt to a changing climate.
Yet governments alone cannot solve the problem. Individual citizens also have an important role to play. Conserving electricity and water, reducing waste, recycling materials, planting trees, using public transportation when possible, and supporting environmentally responsible policies are practical steps that collectively contribute to reducing humanity's environmental footprint. While individual actions cannot replace large-scale policy reforms, they help create the social awareness and public support necessary for broader change.
Educational institutions, universities, and the media also carry significant responsibility. Promoting environmental literacy, encouraging sustainable lifestyles, and educating future generations about climate responsibility are among the most valuable investments any society can make. A well-informed public is better equipped to support effective environmental policies and make responsible decisions that benefit both present and future generations.
The unprecedented heat gripping our planet today is far more than a weather story. It is a warning about the future of human civilization itself. Every additional year of inaction increases the human, economic, and environmental costs of climate change.
Yet there is still reason for hope. The scientific knowledge, technological capacity, and policy tools needed to slow global warming already exist. What remains uncertain is whether the world possesses the collective political will to act with sufficient urgency.
The decisions made today by governments, international organizations, businesses, and ordinary citizens will determine the quality of life for future generations.
Protecting the environment is no longer simply an environmental objective—it has become an economic necessity, a public health priority, a national security concern, and a moral responsibility. The future of humanity depends not only on how much we develop, but on how wisely we protect the planet that sustains us. The warning has been sounded. The question now is whether we will choose to listen before the cost of inaction becomes irreversible.